

Message Text

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1821

C O R R E C T E D COPY (REF ADDED)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CH UR US

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE DETAILS PRC STAND ON SUPERPOWERS

REF: PEKING 1816

SUMMARY: A POSSIBLY AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE IN AUGUST 20 PEOPLE'S DAILY REITERATES AND JUSTIFIES MAOIST PRECEPT THAT SOVIET UNION IS THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WORLD WAR AND PORTRAYS THE UNITED STATES AS RAPIDLY LOSING ITS ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY OVER SOVIETS. ARTICLE MAY WELL BE INTENDED TO SERVE AS PEKING'S VIEW OF U.S. POSITION

IN WORLD ON EVE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE AUGUST 20 ISSUE OF PEOPLE'S DAILY CARRIES A HALF-PAGE ARTICLE DESCRIBING SUPERPOWER" AND NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP, THE ARTICLE THEN DETAILS CONTENTION BETWEEN U.S. AND SOVIET UNION IN ALL PARTS OF WORLD.

MOSCOW IS DESCRIBED AS BEING ON THE OFFENSIVE, A CHARACTERISTIC OF "LATE-COMERS TO IMPERIALISM". U.S., ON THE OTHER HAND, TAKES THE DEFEN-

SIVE: "AMEICAN IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION HAS BECOME HABITUAL, AND IT ALSO

WANTS TO DOMINATE THE WORLD. BUT BECAUSE THE CARPTT IS SPREAD TOO BROADLY, ITS POWER IS NOT UP TO ITS INTENTION. ALTHOUGH IT ATTACKS IN THE MIDST OF ITS DEFENSIVENESS, THE MAIN THING AT PRESENT IS THAT IT WANTS TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO AND TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS IT HAS ALREADY ACQUIRED".

3. PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING PASSAGE, HOWEVER, CONCERNS A DIRECT COMP-

ARISON OF U.S. AND SOVIET STRENGTH. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, SOVIET INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAS GROWN AT A RATE OF SEVEN PERCENT OVER THE PAST

SIX YEARS, AS COMPARED TO THREE PERCENT FOR THE U.S. THUS THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC LEAD OVER THE USSR IS NARROWING, AND IN OVER 20 PRODUCTS RELATED TO ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY, SUCH AS STEEL, IRON, COAL, PETROLEUM, AND CONCRETE, IT HAS ALREADY DISAPPEARED.

4. THE AUTHOR PAINTS THE SAME PICTURE ON THE MILITARY SIDE. NOT ONLY DO THE SOVIETS OVERWHELM THE U.S. IN CONVENTIONAL ARMS, BUT THEY EVEN

HAVE THE LEAD IN SOME ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONRY. THE SOVIET UNION HAS A TWO-TO-ONE

LEAD IN TROOP STRENGTH, THREE-TO-ONE IN SUBMARINES, FOUR-TO-ONE IN TANKS. THE SOVIETS ARE PRODUCING TANKS SIX TIMES FASTER THAN
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THE U.S., AIRPLANES TWICE AS FAST, AND ARTILLERY PIECES EIGHT TIMES AS FAST. SOVIET DEFENSE EXPENDITURES ARE AT THREE TIMES THE LEVELS OF THE 1960'S. THEIR ANNUAL RATE OF INCREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITUE IS THREE TIMES THAT OF THE U.S. IN THE LAST TEN YEARS, SOVIET NUCLEAR WARHEADS HAVE INCREASED FROM 450 TO 3700. AMERICA'S 1962 LEAD IN ICBM'S AND SUBMARINE LAUNCHED MISSILES HAS BEEN WIPED OUT.

5. AFTER CITING THESE FIGURES, THE AUTHOR GOES ON TO MAKE HIS FINAL POINT: THE SOVIET UNION IS THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF A NEW WORLD WAR. IT IS DANGEROUS PARTLY BECAUSE IT MASQUERADES AS SOCIALIST, THUS FOOLS MANY PEOPLE. THUS THE PEOPLE OF ALL COUNTRIES MUST RAISE THEIR VIGILANCE AND UNITE WITH ALL POSSIBLE FORCES TO FORM A BROAD UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE SUPERPOWERS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION.

6. COMMENT: ALL OF THE POINTS IN THIS ARTICLE HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. IN ITS DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR, IT SERVES AS A PARTIAL ANSWER TO ALBANIA'S RECENT ATTACKS ON PEKING'S FOREIGN POLICY, LIKE A LESS AUTHORITATIVE ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST 18 KWANGMING DAILY (REFTEL). COMING TWO DAYS BEFORE SECRETARY VANCE'S ARRIVAL IN PEKING, HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE

SEEMS INTENDED TO DEPICT THE UNITED STATES WITH WHOM PRC LEADERS
WILL BE NEGOTIATING AS A DEFENSIVE POWER RAPIDLY LOSING OUT IN ITS
STRUGGLE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. CHINESE LEADERS MAY WELL MAKE THESE
SAME POINTS IN THEIR TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY.
WOODCOCK

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